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February 18, 2000

Michael Friedman, MD
Commissioner
US Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
Room 1-23 12420
Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 20857

RE: Downed animals for human food supply

Dear Commissioner Friedman,

I am writing to urge the Food and Drug Administration to stop the slaughter of downed animals for the human food supply.

As you know, last summer the FDA banned certain animal by-products from being used in livestock feed because the FDA was concerned about a potential threat of bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE (Mad Cow Disease) in the United States. While this is a positive first step, further measures are necessary to reduce the threat of BSE in the United States.

Farm Sanctuary filed a petition with the Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture to end the slaughter and use of downed animals for human consumption. The petition asserts that using downed animals in the human food supply is a violation of federal law.

Current USDA regulations define downed animals-those unable to stand-as "diseased", and the law prohibits the slaughter of "diseased" animals for human food. The current practice of slaughtering downed animals for human consumption must stop.

Diseases like bovine leukemia virus (BLV), bovine immunodeficiency virus (BIV) and others commonly afflict United States cattle. There is also evidence that cattle, pigs, and sheep in the United States may be affected with diseases like Britain's "Mad Cow Disease" (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE).

As a consumer, I personally do not feel safe eating meat for fear that it might be contaminated. And as an animal lover, I believe that it is morally and ethically our duty, your duty to stop the slaughter of "downed" animals. Simply put, it is the right thing to do.

I would very much appreciate your response to my letter. Please inform me as to your position on this issue. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Amanda K. Hudson

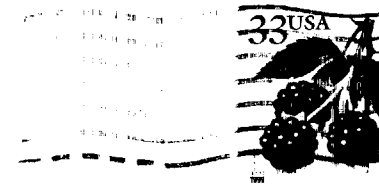
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